

REMARKS

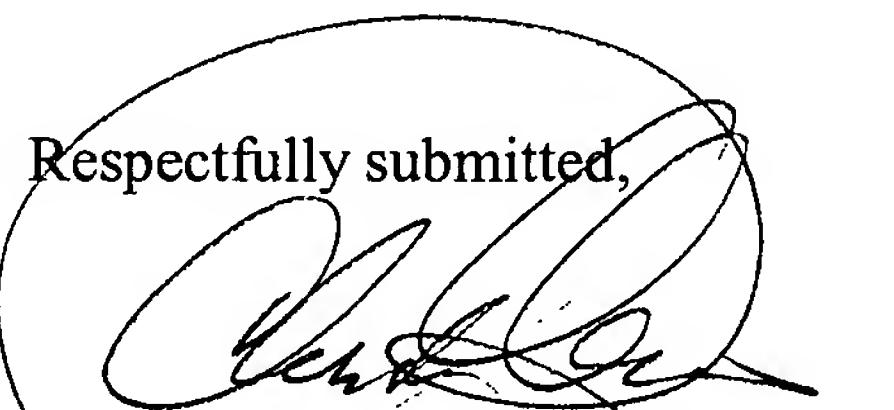
The present application is a Rule 53(b) divisional application of U.S. Application No. 08/991,876, filed December 16, 1997. The divisional application papers were filed on July 28, 2003.

In the current Second Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claim 1 and added new Claims 18 to 30. Claims 18, 21, 24 and 28 are independent. Claims 2 to 17 previously were cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 28, 2003, with the divisional application papers.

Newly presented Claims 18 to 20, 20 to 23, 24 to 27 and 28 to 30 have been formulated/patterned based on previously presented Claims 20 to 22, 34 to 36, 43 to 46 and 47 to 49, respectively, of parent U.S. Application No. 08/991,876 (allowed).

Favorable consideration of the pending claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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